

## **MHSA Implementation Progress Report April 11, 2008**

Provided By: The California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA)

Prepared by: Stephanie Welch, MSW, Associate Director MHSA

CMHDA represents the directors of public mental health authorities in counties (and some cities) throughout California. The primary goal of our Association, pursuant to a three-year strategic plan adopted last fall, is to *"advocate for equity and full inclusion of vulnerable populations, and secure social justice as measured by access to necessary quality services that promote mental health, wellness, resiliency and recovery in our communities."* As MHSA implementers, counties play a primary role and carry great responsibility in the transformation of local mental health systems. The following are key MHSA implementation issues in April 2008:

### **Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)**

- ❖ 36 Counties have submitted and have been approved for their Community Program Planning funds. In order to receive these resources, counties must have a signed MHSA agreement and have submitted their cash flow and expenditure and revenue reports.
- ❖ Most counties are in the middle of the planning process with expected late summer and early fall plan submissions. One plan has been submitted, one has been posted, and more are expected to be submitted by June.
- ❖ CMHDA is working with DMH and OAC staff to resolve concerns about the resource guide to ensure that there are no disincentives to selecting alternative programs to include in PEI plans. CMHDA believes that all programs proposed should be held to the same standard.
- ❖ CMHDA is in the initial stages of developing regional trainings for counties staff and their stakeholders to support plan submission and to assess additional technical assistance needs.
- ❖ Exploring strategies to implement PEI statewide programs continues to be a focus of staff attention and collaboration with OAC and DMH. CMHDA remains committed to implementation and working towards achieving the aims of such programs envisioned by stakeholders. Topic will be presented April 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Workforce, Education, and Training (WET)**

- ❖ 45 counties have submitted requests for early implementation dollars; all have been approved.
- ❖ 8 counties have submitted their three-year WET program and expenditure plans to State DMH. Those counties include: Mono, Monterey, Stanislaus, Kern, Plumas, Merced, Colusa, and Santa Cruz. No county has been approved for funding for their three year plans thus far; 2 local plans are in the final stages of review.
- ❖ Roughly 30 counties have either hired a full time or half time person to manage and evaluate the Workforce Component of the MHSA.
- ❖ On April 9<sup>th</sup> the CMHDA Governing Board approved recommending to DMH the release of an additional \$110 million in WET funds to augment local WET planning estimates after the five year Education and Training Development Plan is approved by the Mental Health Planning Council.

**Joint Powers Authority (JPA)** - CMHDA continues to explore developing a JPA and will retain a legal consultant to conduct research and develop documents for counties. The intent is the efficient implementation of the MHSA.

**CSS Housing Program Moving Forward** - Counties are in the process of getting approval from their Boards of Supervisors to assign back their MHSA Housing program funds to CalHFA. Four counties have completed this process and others are in the 30 day posting process. A new policy from DMH released 4/9/08 allows counties to add more CSS funds to the MHSA Housing program. Some counties are currently considering this possibility. Counties are developing program proposals for review and approval.

### **Stakeholder Improvement Issues and Establishing the Social Justice Advisory Committee**

CMHDA will be establishing a new advisory committee to the Governing Board within the next few months that will provide recommendations on reduce disparities within the public the public mental health system. Identifying strategies to improve the local stakeholder process will also be within the scope of this committee.

CMHDA appreciates the opportunity to provide this implementation report and suggests that OAC staff and/or commissioners with additional questions on any MHSA issue visit our MHSA webpage at <http://www.cmhda.org/mhsa/mhsa.html> or contact, Stephanie Welch at [swelch@cmhda.org](mailto:swelch@cmhda.org) or (916) 556-3477 x152.